



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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May 2021

Letter from the Chair

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

I hope you can join us for our upcoming activities: Adirondack Chapter plant sale on Saturday May 22 at Myer's Park, Lansing, and 2021 Garden Tour on Saturday June 26. NOTE: for the plant sale, lunch is BYO (bring your own) – we're not having a potluck lunch. As I toured my garden today, I saw quite a few very happy plants that came from our Adirondack Chapter plant sales over the years. There's an old expression: the best way to keep a plant is to give it away. The idea is that if you have a plant you're fond of, and it dies, with luck you can get it back from someone who you shared it with in the past. We've all had plants die, the security of being able to call a plant back would be terrific.

I've really enjoyed the mostly really pleasant spring weather, which has been great for gardening and being outside. The snow and cold weather last week wasn't very welcome, but at least it was not a surprise. We had a few inches of snow and a low around 27 degrees F. The tender and semi-tender plants had to go back inside. One might expect the perennial plants outside would be fine, but the warm weather encouraged plants to leaf out early. Some of the victims of leafing out too early (for their own good) were *Matteucia struthiopteris* (ostrich fern), *Thelypteris palustris* (marsh fern), *Podophyllum* 'Spotty Dotty' (Asian mayapple), which got frostbitten leaves. All the spring bulbs and primulas were fine, suffering no frost damage.

Do you even notice how a little project can somehow morph into a much bigger project? I was just digging in my shady border, thinking I would plant a fern there, and started finding rocks and more rocks. I've decided that this border was filled in with hard fill ages ago, so it wasn't a big surprise. It might have been perfect for a rock garden, but it's not sunny, and I decided long ago that it was going to be for shade lovers. I ended up digging up enough rocks to fill a 5 gallon pail, or a little more. It's all filled in now with new soil created from what little soil was left after rock extraction, humus, compost, old potting mix, and sand. It cost a few more hours than planned, but I do have a use for the rocks.

I'm not sure whether the recent cold snap will be my ally for seed starting. I had good germination for a few perennials that do not require stratification: *Aethionema armenum* and *Draba bruniifolia*. I even planted some of the *Aethionema* out in the garden yesterday, and the *Draba* will get planted out soon. A few of those needing stratification germinated: *Oxytropis*, *Allium narcissiflorum*, and *Dianthus myrtinervius*. The others seem slow, so I'm hoping when I move the pots into the sun and they get some heat that I'll see more germination. There are cool season grasses (e.g. bluegrass and most of our lawn grasses) and warm season grasses (little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*), there are plants that germinate in cool conditions and those that germinate in warm conditions. I'm hoping that explains my limited germination success so far. A consolation is seeing the happy primulas I grew from seed last year, which are either blooming or about to bloom: *Primula elatior* (oxlip), *P. cortusioides*, *P. matthioli*, *P. garnet cowichan*, and *P. juliae*. These seem to be easy plants, quite happy in rich amended soil in partial shade. I hope they will fatten up this year, their second year, and provide divisions so I can follow my own advice.

I hope to see you in a few weeks.

Our Garden Fair Booth, May 14

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

While we will not be selling plants at the Cooperative Extension's annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale, we plan to have an information only booth. This opportunity to interact with the public is too great to resist. As we should all be aware, the Garden Fair is well attended by the greater gardening community. For ACNARGS it has served as a tool to recruit new members and inform others that we exist.



2020 Plant Sale; Image by Sandy Repp

The Garden Fair is scheduled for two Fridays May 14 and May 21 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Ithaca Farmers Market at Steamboat Landing. For those unfamiliar with this site, the Market I am looking for volunteers to staff the booth, especially on May 14th. With our own sale scheduled for May 22, my preference is to have an unstaffed booth that day.

Needless to say, working our booth will also give you the opportunity to shop for plants etc. at the many vendors small and large in attendance, some coming from as far away as Naples, Nichols, and Phelps. Information and list of vendors can be found here. (<http://cctompkins.org/gardening/events-resources/spring-garden-fair-plant-sale>) Not all vendors may be in attendance at both dates. The Master Gardeners will be selling on May 14th sale only and the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society and Southern Cayuga Garden Club booths will be at the May 21st sale only.

As of now, the booth will display our banner and posters that we have used in previous years, brochures about the Chapter and Wurster garden, membership forms, and a slide show of members' gardens set up on a laptop. This will be our May 21st set-up too (if the hand-outs can be secured against the wind), but without the laptop. Note the first hour of the sale (2 – 3pm) is for seniors and immune-compromised individuals. Covid protocol will be in place and masks are required.

These are the shifts needed for Friday May 14th, with ideally 2 people per shift:

- 1 - 2pm: Set-up (Carol + 1 more)
- 2 – 4pm
- 4 - 6pm
- 6 - 7pm and takedown (Carol + 1 more)

Contact Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com to volunteer. Thank you!

Members Only Spring Plant Sale is May 22

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

In case you haven't heard, we are holding a plant sale on Saturday, May 22. After some discussion at our April meeting, we decided to hold our own sale, independently of the Cooperative Extension Garden Fair and Plant Sale (which is being held on two separate Fridays, May 14 and May 21). We will keep our sale to members-only to help limit outside contact and to minimize potential covid exposure. Perhaps just as important, we wanted to use this time to reconnect with each other. We will have a chance to socialize with fellow gardeners in person (!) and have the opportunity purchase some amazing plants. Regardless of the weather, it should be a day of near perfection. Here are the details.

Schedule

- May 14: Last date to submit what plants you are donating to Carol (carolithaca@gmail.com)
- May 17: Advance plant list sent out
- May 22:
- 9:00 a.m. Set-up begins at Pavilion B at Myers Park, Lansing (see map)
- 10:30 a.m. (approximately)
- Sale begins; masks required; safe distancing protocol in place
- 12:30 p.m. Sale conclude (or perhaps earlier); Bring-your-own bag lunch optional
- 1:30 p.m. Clean-up (if we run ahead of schedule, clean-up and tour will also be earlier)
- 2:00 p.m. Tour the Stauble/Stark gardens at 232 Cedar Cove Rd., Lansing

Donating Plants

You do not need to donate plants to participate in the sale. We need buyers too! Now is the time, if you haven't already started, to pot up plants to donate to the sale. Remember to bare-root each plant before potting up into a soil-less potting mix. Label with Latin name in advance please. What plants should you bring? That is a hard question to answer but we suggest you offer plants that you value that are not so common that they are likely to already be in our gardens. Also, while you may be able to bring 20 of something, don't. With such a limited "customer-base," think small quantities. . If you are not planning to attend, feel free to donate plants and arrange for a fellow member to bring them. OR drop them off at David Mitchell's downtown Ithaca house, at 402 Esty Street.

For reference should you find this helpful, we will attach the August 2020 sale inventory with this newsletter.

Submitting your Plant List by May 14th

To help eliminate the frenzy and crowding that typically occurs at our sales, we will send out a Plant Sale List in advance. Study this and build your wish list.

As Plant Sale Coordinator, Carol Eichler will be compiling a list of plants for sale. We will want to know quantity, Plant name - Latin, Common name, type of plant (that is rock garden/trough, perennial, tree/shrub, houseplant, etc.), and any notes you care to add about the plant. Don't fret if your list is incomplete; it is meant merely to facilitate smooth operation of the sale. Late additions can be talked about at the sale.

I suggest you might also submit any plants that are on your wish list. Sometimes a plant that is common and prolific in my garden is something you don't have but would like.

Setting up Day of Sale and Auction Table

Set-up always seems to take a long time so we will begin at 9:00 a.m. Anyone arriving early to help will be given "plant donor priority" status. As with last year, we have reserved Pavilion B, which is a large, roofed pavilion. (see map), near the large playground. Plants will be arranged alphabetically by Latin name on tables so labeled. As you arrive, you will be expected to place your plants appropriately. Remember to place any unusual plants or large specimens on the bid table.

Sale Begins (no earlier than 10:30 a.m.) and Procedure

First, remember to sign-in as you arrive. Set-up always seems to take longer than we expect but we will aim to start no earlier than 10:30. Like we've always done, we will open the sale "grab" to a limited number of people at a time, giving priority in the 1st two rounds to those who donated plants or who helped with early set-up.

The sale will now start to resemble past years, allowing 2 plants per person in Round 2, 3 plants in Round 3, until eventually the sale is open to all for an unlimited number of plants. We will pause periodically to allow time to talk about special plants and for a mid-sale browsing break. We will take a little time to talk about items on the bid table too and provide the opportunity to ask questions about sale plants. Remember, the sale itself happens quickly.

Pricing Simplified

To keep pricing as simple as possible, prices will be determined by pot size: 2-inch pot = \$2, 3-inch pot = \$3, 4" pot \$4, etc. We will use colored pricing sticks for plants in pots that we feel are under- or over-priced based on pot size. Hopefully this won't complicate things! With bargain prices, I hope no one will complain. Remember, we will go to half-price at some point, so those \$4 not-so-special plants will then be priced at \$2.

Auction Reminder

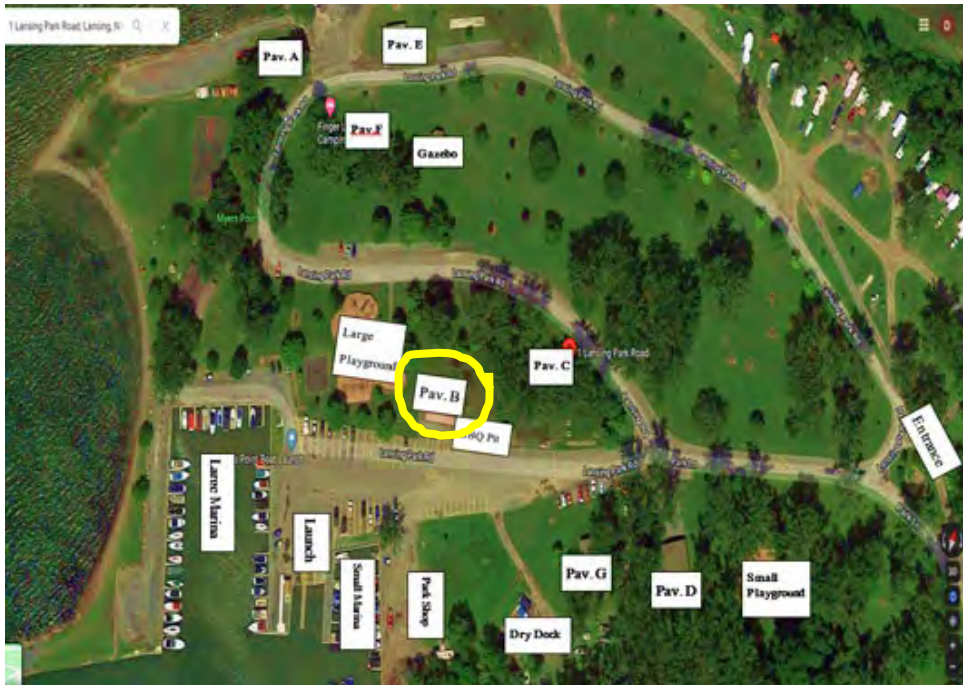
Your number on the sign-in sheet is also your number for the bid table. The bid table is open until last call when the silent auction is closed.

After Sale Lunch and Clean-up

After paying for your plant purchases with the cashier, it's time for lunch! Bring your own lunch, your own water to stay hydrated and a beverage if desired. We will provide cookies for dessert. We can eat in small groups at the shelter or, if the weather is nice, lunch can be enjoyed outdoors anywhere within the park.

A Garden Tour

To top off the day, after clean-up Mary Stauble and Bill Stark have invited us to tour their garden. They live a short drive away at 232 Cedar Cove Rd., Lansing. We visited their garden in 2019 and there have been significant changes since then. The rock garden should be blooming away!



How to get to Myers Park and the Pavilion

Getting to Myers Park is a bit complicated because the Route 34B bridge over Salmon Creek is closed. Bill Stark has supplied these directions: Ignore the detour signs. Instead, drive on 34B (north or south) until you reach the barricades at the bridge and then take Myers Road, which crosses Salmon Creek west (downstream) of the main 34B bridge and then loops back to 34B. The entrance to Myers Park is at the stop sign on Myers Road next to the railroad tracks. This short detour will only take a couple of minutes. The official detour will take about 45 minutes. Yikes!

The Park website states "Approximately 60 miles southwest of Syracuse, and 10 miles north of Ithaca, Myers Park sits on the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in Tompkins County. Located in the southern part of the Town of Lansing off of Route 34B, the park is graced with 31 acres of grass covered, tree

shaded land, with extensive Cayuga Lake frontage. Admission for Town of Lansing residents is free, all others \$6 per car.” This fee cannot be avoided.

We have rented Pavilion B, near the playground, circled in yellow in the park photo on previous page. Take the one-way road in the park that loops around to this shelter. The Park has no GPS coordinates that I could find.

How to get to Bill and Mary’s from Myers Park

It takes 10 minutes to drive from Myers Park to our garden: Ignore detour signs. As you drive out of the park, turn left after the railroad tracks onto Myers Road and drive up the hill to 34B. Turn left on 34B north and drive about 5 miles. Turn left onto Algerine Road (after the fire station) and drive towards the lake about 1 mile. Turn right onto Cedar Cove Road. Cedar Cove is a gravel road with a small sign set back about 12 feet — so it’s hard to see. Take right forks on Cedar Cove until you see our sign “232 Cedar Cove” at the top of our driveway. Our house has a patina green metal roof. There is a parking area at the top of the driveway. Enter the garden between the two large rocks on the driveway that are in front of the house.

A view from the new cliff ramparts into the midlevel rock gardens. This view wasn’t possible before because this spot was a 45 degree slope above a 9 foot vertical drop. It’s now safe to walk along the edge of the cliff. The double wall ramparts are built out of multi-ton limestone blocks that we quarried on site.



We’ve added many new garden beds since our garden was last on tour. This tufa bed contains a small pool patterned on Mexican cenotes near Tulum and a 67” high tufa tower that provides many different microclimates for plants as diverse as cacti and hosta. The new conifer garden is in the background of the photo.

Plant of the Month

Marlene Kobre, Plant of the Month

Spring brings us many joys, and right now one of my greatest is to resurrect our Plant of the Month program from its more than year-long dormancy. At our May 22 Plant Sale we will be offering *Cyclamen purpurascens* supplied by Edelweiss Nursery, which we can always count on to deliver beautifully grown and safely shipped plants. The owner, Urs Baltensperger, says of this species, “If I would have to name the 10 best perennials, I could never decide on the 10 but I know this plant would be one of them.” High praise coming from so fine a plantsman.



Cyclamen purpurascens. Photo by Edelweiss Perennials.

A member the family Primulaceae, the *Cyclamen* genus includes 23 species that are native to the Mediterranean area, spreading as far north as Central Europe and as far east as Iran. Urs notes several advantages that distinguish it from other species: It's the hardiest of all the *Cyclamen*, has a longer blooming period, and the flowers are exceptionally fragrant. It also holds its foliage most of the summer, whereas the other species go dormant.

DESCRIPTION AND CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS:

Flowers and Fruit: Dark pink to magenta flowers with 4-5 reflexed petals nod on the end of 3-5" stems. The pollinator bees will enjoy feasting on them, and ants will also help disperse the seeds that form after flowering. Those seeds are coated with elaiosome, a fat-rich substance that the ants can't resist.

Bloom Time: June-September in Oregon, so probably a little later here.

Foliage: Leaves are variegated with green and silver mottled blotches rather than the regular patterns of some other species. And unlike other species, *purpurascens* holds its foliage for most of the summer.

Light: More sun-tolerant than other species, it also grows in light-to-full shade.

Soil/Water: Humus-rich, mildly alkaline, well-drained soil, but prefers more moisture in summer than other species to support the foliage that does not go dormant.

Hardiness: Zone 5

Other Virtues: Fragrant, deer and rabbit resistant.

Note: The corms are toxic, so culinary experimentation is not recommended.

Garden Tour for Members is June 26

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

Garden Tour 2021

This year's garden tour will be to three gardens of long time Adirondack Chapter members in the Ithaca west area on **Saturday June 26, 2021**. The three gardens are:

Garden #1 Susanne Lipari 3991 NY Route 228, Alpine, NY [Hector]

Garden #2 Carol Eichler 1562 Taughannock Boulevard (NY Route 89), Ithaca, NY [Ulysses]

Garden #3 Pat Curran 10 Slator's Lane (off NY Route 34/96), Newfield, NY [West Danby]

Starting from downtown Ithaca, there's 20 minutes travel time to the first garden, and after that it's 20 minutes to each garden following that (give or take a few minutes, but less than the 30 minutes allotted). Each garden is relatively easy to get to.

Garden Tour rules

We're still in the middle of a pandemic. This event is only open to members of the Adirondack Chapter and their immediate family members. Supervised children are welcome. No pets are allowed on the garden tour. Many of us (or even more possibly) are already vaccinated, but possibly not all visitors. We will follow current CDC guidelines as of June 2021. Currently, masks are required outside and we encourage social distancing. Masks are required **at all times** in the host's house (i.e. when inside to use the toilet), and you should stay inside the house no longer than necessary. You may visit one, two, or all 3 of the gardens, but only at scheduled times. Stay on the lawn and paths during the tour. Show appreciation to the hosts for opening their gardens; people generally do extra work to prepare their gardens for a tour. You may want to bring a folding chair for lunch. The garden tour will held be rain or shine. For your comfort, it's a good idea to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, water, your lunch, an extra layer of clothing (windbreaker, sweater), raincoat, etc. In the event of really bad weather (heavy rain, high winds, etc.) the garden tour will be cancelled, that is weather you might be concerned about driving in would result in cancellation.

Garden #1 - Susanne

Susanne has gardened at this home for over 30 years. After moving into an old farmhouse with gardens which were not maintained for years, she put on her gardening gloves. The garden is mainly a long slightly sloping rectangle, and the two design principles followed were to introduce visual breaks and to remove as much lawn as possible. This was greatly helped when her son began to teach himself dry stone walling and created terraces. There is no natural running water, but a round galvanized feed trough provides a small pond that is home to several frogs. With the reduction of lawn to just an ornamental feature, gravel paths are used to get to the various sections of the garden. There isn't a traditional rock garden, but there are several areas with crevices plantings, mostly where she used stone from the repair of the original house foundation. There is the beginning of extensive terraces and gardens leading up to her son's new house, which are still very much in progress.

Garden #2 – Carol

Carol with her husband Steve has built and planted 2 rock gardens - one in 2016 inspired by the Andes, the second in 2020 inspired by the Aran Islands in Ireland. They have a good arrangement: he builds the stone walls and she does the gardening. Many of her rock garden plants are grown from seed obtained through seed exchanges; you will be able to view this process from seed to nursery. There is a traditional perennial border which is transitioning to shrubs, other low maintenance, semi-wild beds, a secret garden, and paths through about 1 1/2 acres of woods with no less than 4 hubby-built bridges that are worth a visit. If the weather is good, there are a number of spots to enjoy your lunch. Our bathroom will be open. There is parking behind the house which can accommodate quite a few cars, but should this space fill up, people can park on Agard Road (a very short distance north of the house off Route 89), and walk the mowed path to our house (which will be marked).

Garden #3 – Pat

The main area near the house is deer-fenced and includes several perennial gardens with some shrubs and a few dwarf conifers. There are lots of flowering and fruiting trees, berry bushes, and veggie garden. Pat doesn't spend much time in the sun, so she is especially interested in shade gardening, including lots of Hosta and some native wildflowers. There may be a few late-blooming deciduous azaleas, planted in 2019, so they are still small. A small arboretum outside the deer fence and across the stream is under development. This is accessible up a steepish hill if anyone is interested.

PLEASE NOTE: no toilet is available at Pat's garden, which is in a rural location. Plan ahead.

ITINERARY Saturday June 26

9:30 AM to 10:45 AM – Susanne's garden
 10:45 AM to 11:15 AM – drive to Carol's
 11:15 AM to 1 PM – Carol's garden and lunch break
 1 PM to 1:30 PM – drive to Pat's
 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM Pat's garden

DIRECTIONS**Garden #1**

Take NY Route 79 West from Ithaca to NY Route 228 south, go left on NY 228 to 3991 NY 228. Park on the shoulder of the road.

Garden #2

Take NY 228 north to County Rt 3, go right on CR 3, this becomes CR 142. At stop sign on NY Route 96, turn right and immediately turn left to stay on CR 142. Turn left on Garrett Road to its end at NY 89. Go left on NY 89 (if you miss Garrett Road, just turn left onto NY 89). Pass Cayuga Nature Center and Kraft Road, both on the left.

Continue on 89 past Kraft Road you may see a road sign for campgrounds going up Kraft; you are getting close. 1562 is on the left, the 6th house after Kraft; when you see a yellow road sign for intersecting road (that would be for Agard Rd.), slow down and put on your turn signal; just beyond the driveway on the right is a big blue Adopt-a-Highway sign; if you pass Agard Road, you've gone too far (you can turn around at Taughannock Park in another 1.5 miles.

The house and driveway are obscured by a tall spruce stand near the road and woods just beyond. But house number is well marked.

Parking: behind the house beyond the garage; the area looks like lawn but has a gravel base. Alternate parking on Agard Road. If you might need to make a quick getaway and not get blocked in, park on Agard Road. Do not park on NY 89.

Garden #3

Take NY Route 89 south, past the Cayuga Inlet to Seneca Street, turn right, then turn right on State Street. Turn left on NY Route 13A, Floral Ave. continuing until it ends at NY Routes 13/34/96 (Elmira Road). Turn left to get to McDonalds or Arbys or other convenience options if you need a bathroom break. Otherwise, turn right on NY Routes 13/34/96 going south. Just past Eddydale Farm Market, the highway splits; continue on Rt. 34/96 south. In about 4 miles or so, a right turn on Piper Road means you're getting close. **DO NOT TURN!** You will go up a steepish hill and at the top is Slaters Lane, a dirt road heading only to the right. Slow down for the turn. Slaters Lane is narrow enough that neighbors posted a One Lane Road sign. After three houses near the 34/96 highway, the road curves and descends with swamp on both sides. Pat is in the white house on the right. If you overshoot the house, turn around at the dead end a couple hundred yards further.

Parking is limited so please try to park with that in mind. There will be space for two cars in the driveway near the deer fence, and maybe a third can squeeze in behind those two. You will see my rusty white minivan parked on the side of the road before the driveway. There is room for several more cars to pull over there. The woodies planted there each have their own deer fence. If you are comfortable carpooling with another vaccinated Chapter member, you might want to consider doing that.

Protecting Plants from Frost

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

With the hard frost we had the evening of April 21–22, following a warm spell that caused a growth spurt in herbaceous perennials and trees and shrubs to flower, the question was raised what can we do to protect

vulnerable plantings from frost damage— or do we need to do anything?

A great resource to check out for “next time” is <https://dengarden.com/gardening/Protecting-Plants-from-Spring-Frosts> suggested by Kathy Purdy.

Hopefully “next time” won’t happen again this spring! The early arrival of spring was so welcome but it may have come at a cost. While a set back like we had is not unusual, it is rarely welcomed.

Two Gardens Need Volunteers

As a member you have two opportunities to learn more about rock gardening and rock garden plants first-hand. Volunteer!

First, there’s our own public garden, the Al Wurster Memorial Garden located at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. Now that spring clean-up is completed, we will get together occasionally for routine maintenance. We’ll likely hold a late summer planting too. Contact Carol (carolithaca@gmail.com) if you’d like to be included in future sessions.

The second opportunity is to work at Cornell Botanic Gardens’ Heasley Rock Garden under the supervision of Emily Detrick, Director of Horticulture. Her past credentials include working at Stonecrop, where she honed her rock gardening knowledge. She can be contacted at efd6@cornell.edu. Several of our Chapter members have helped with this garden.

Marion Tobey’s Book Sale

Marion Tobey, a former (old) member of the Ithaca chapter of NARGS, back in the day of Bill Hamilton and Nina Lambert is offer books for sale. If you are interested in any of the books, Marion can be reached by email at ttobey@twcny.rr.com. She’s located at 1520 Ridge Rd (Route 34 B) in Lansing. across the road from the former George and Elizabeth Sheldon property. There’s also a collection of Hosta books available, if anyone is interested in knowing about those.

\$5 each:

Cuttings from a Rock Garden. H. Lincoln Foster 1990
North American Rock Garden Plants. W. H. A. Preece. 1957
Rocky Mountain Alpines. 1986
Rock Garden and Alpine Plants. Henry Corevon. 1930
The Present Day Rock Garden. Sampson Clay. 1954
Rock Garden Plants. Doretta Klaber. 1959
Gentians in the Garden. G. H. Berry
Collins Guide to Alpines. Anna N. Griffith. 1964
The Genus Phlox. Edgar T. Wherry. 1955
Gentians for Your Garden. Doretta Klaber. 1964
All about Rock Gardens and Plants. Walter A. Kolaga. 1966
The Little Bulbs. Elizabeth Lawrence. 1957
Saxifragas. Winton Harding. 1976
Handbook on Troughs. NARGS. 1996
Gertrude Jekyll on Gardening. Paperback. 1985

\$10 each:

Hortus Third, 2 vol. 1997
NYS Report of the State Botanist. 1895
The Complete Garden. Albert Taylor. 1920
The Natural Shade Garden. Ken Druse. 1992

\$75. *L.H. Bailey,* 4 Volumes. 1902

Kingbird Farm Offerings

Rock garden plants will be available at our retail greenhouse starting May 1st and at the Ithaca Farmer's Market on Saturdays (stall #64).

This is a partial list, as plants from the surplus round are still germinating. Many species are available in limited numbers and/or may not be available until later in the season. Contact us if you want to check availability of a specific species.

Agastache rupestris
Agrostemma githago
Allium cernuum
Amorpha canescens
Asarina procumbens
Cleome hirta
Crepis rubra
Eritrichium canum
Erysimum marshallii
Erythranthe (Mimulus) cardinalis
Galvezia juncea
Hieracium villosum
Hypericum olympicum
Hypericum olympicum f. uniflorum
Linaria 'Spanish Dancer'
Loasa tricolor
Petrophytum caespitosum
Petunia exserta
Phuopsis stylosa
Pontechium maculatum
Scutellaria resinosa
Sedum spp. (incl. *S. hispanicum*, *S. ewersii*, *S. 'Tricolor'*, *S. rupestre 'Angelina,'* et al.)
Sempervivum (various cultivars)
Seseli gummiferum
Taraxacum leucanthum
Verbascum phoeniceum
Verbascum roripifolium



Also available: culinary/medicinal herbs, vegetable starts, tropicals, and more (see www.kingbirdfarm.com for plant list and pricing)

Caring for Seedlings

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

Up 'til now, we've discussed seed starting techniques. Now it's time to move on to the next phase...tending to the new seedlings. Here's what I do, but I'm still a beginner at this. I'd love to learn what others do.

As soon as I see germination, I move that pot to a flat outside that's in a protected place. I record into my database (an excel spreadsheet of seeds started). Right now I still have a vented humidity cover over them and they do get occasional watering. Then, I wait until true leaves emerge and it need be transplant them to styrofoam seedling troughs to grow them out. Some will be big enough to transplant into a trough or rock garden by late summer/early fall; some will be offered at the August member sale; some will overwinter in these troughs. Since many seedlings are quite tiny above ground and with extensive root systems, transplanting is rather tedious (I need my reading glasses!), I often use a chopstick to direct the roots in one long, uncurled run.

I figure the styrofoam walls provide decent insulation for their survival. After having been invaded by a creature trying to nest in one of the boxes (chipmunk perhaps), I cover the tops with mesh. I normally use a very lean, gritty potting mix but now I'm thinking I want something a bit richer to encourage more rapid growth. I'll add some compost perhaps up to 1/3 the mix this year.

As the seedlings grow, they may be introduced to the rock garden or to a trough as an intermediate step. Extras are often seen at the Member-Only plant sale, having been nursed along all summer.

Yes, I do have losses. As I always say, there are many opportunities to kill a plant before it ever makes it to bloom.

Hairy Bittercress, a New Weed

Hairy Bittercress

Reprinted from Cornell Cooperative Extension

Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*) is a weedy mustard common in nurseries, container plants, turf, irrigated crops and moist disturbed areas. In New York it is usually a winter annual, but can sometimes act as a summer annual or biennial. It thrives on moist and sandy soils in waste and cultivated areas.

Hairy bittercress is one of 3000+ species in the mustard family. For help identifying weedy mustards either in the rosette or flowering phase, please visit our [mustard identification page](#).



Small area of hairy bittercress infestation. Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff of University of Connecticut via Bugwood.org



Hairy bittercress seedling. Photo by Joseph M. DiTomaso of University of California, Davis via Bugwood.org

Identification

Seedlings: Hairy Bittercress cotyledons (3 mm long (~1/10")) are rounded, hairy on the surface, and form on long petioles. The weed's first 2 true leaves are kidney- to heart-shaped. The subsequent leaves that emerge on the plant have 2-4 pairs of alternate leaflets and a larger terminal leaflet. The leaves form in a basal rosette.

Leaves: Mature plant leaves have 1-3 pairs of alternate leaflets that are round to kidney-shaped and a larger kidney-shaped terminal lobe. The margins of these leaflets are either shallowly toothed or lightly lobed. Leaves on the upper portion of the plant are less numerous than the basal leaves and are typically hairy on the upper surface, while the upper surface of the basal leaves may or may not contain hairs.

Mature plant: Stems are smooth, angled, and typically branched towards the base. Flowers are mainly present in mid to late spring, and individual plants flower continually through the flowering period. Flowers form at stem ends, with seedpods forming lower on stems. Root systems are shallow and fibrous rather than taprooted.



View of hairy bittercress plant from above. Photo by Lynn Sosnoskie of Cornell University



Hairy bittercress stem. Photo by Lynn Sosnoskie of Cornell University



Hairy bittercress leaves. Photo by Lynn Sosnoskie of Cornell University

Flowers/Fruit: Arranged in dense racemes, the flowers (2-3 mm (~1/10") in diameter) are relatively small and composed of 4 petals, 4 sepals, and 4 (sometimes 6) stamens. The fruit (1.5-2.5 cm (~1") long) is a flattened capsule (silique). Mature seedpods split open when disturbed, launching seeds up to 5m (15') from the plant.



Hairy bittercress flowers. Photo by Lynn Sosnoskie of Cornell University

References

Uva R H, Neal J C, DiTomaso J M. 1997. [Weeds of the Northeast](#). Book published by Cornell University, Ithaca NY. The go-to for weed ID in the Northeast; look for a new edition sometime in 2019.

[Hairy bittercress](#) identification and management information webpage from University of Maryland's Home and Garden Information Center.

Pennsylvania State University Extension's webpage on [hairy bittercress](#) identification and management information.

Michigan State University Extension's [germination and spreading information](#) on hairy bittercress.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Weed of the Month profile on [hairy bittercress](#).

Management

Chemical control

New York specific guidance can be found in the [Cornell Crop and Pest Management Guides](#), or click above for chemical control recommendations for **hairy bittercress** from the [Penn State University Extension](#).

Non-chemical control

Mechanical management such as cultivation/tillage or hand removal has shown to be the most effective in controlling hairy bittercress when the plant is young and at the beginning of an infestation. The best times for management are early fall or early spring before the plants begin to set seed.



Hairy bittercress fruits. Photo by Lynn Sosnoskie of Cornell University

Spotted Lanternfly, a New Pest



Spotted Lanternfly

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has confirmed that the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect, has been found in multiple counties in New York. This insect is native to Asia and has also been detected in Pennsylvania (in 2014), New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. The pest targets ailanthus trees, in particular, and attacks a wide variety of crops including grapes, hops, apples and forest products.

The insect is easy to identify with distinct markings. It will change hosts as it goes through its developmental stages. Nymphs feed on a wide range of plant species (willow, maple, poplar, sycamore as well as fruit trees like plum, cherry, and peach) while adults prefer to feed and lay eggs on tree of heaven (*A. altissima*).

If left unchecked, the spotted lanternfly can potentially wreak havoc on the New York's grape, orchard and logging industries. It causes harm by sucking sap from plant stems and leaves. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant and eventually contribute to the plant's death.

Invasive species can be transported to new locations in various ways. While the insect can walk, jump, or fly short distances, its long-distance spread is facilitated by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. Spotted lanternflies are easiest to spot at dusk or at night as they migrate up and down the trunk of the plant. If you find an insect that you suspect is the spotted lanternfly, please take a specimen or a photo and contact our Extension offices to have its identity confirmed.

New York State has recently implemented new actions to prevent the spread of the lanternfly within the state. As of October 2018, a quarantine will restrict movement of goods brought into New York State from Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Another way to prevent the spread of this insect within New York State is to limit the spread of Tree of Heaven which is also an invasive species. Young seedlings may be pulled or dug up, taking care to remove all roots and fragments, preferably when soil is moist. Chemical controls work best during late winter/early spring and in summer. The cut stump method is useful in areas where the trees need to be removed from the site and will be cut as part of the process. The hack-and-squirt or injection method is also effective and minimizes sprouting and suckering when applied during the summer.

Additional Resources:

New York State Actions to Prevent the Spread of the Lanternfly: [October 2018](#)

New York Department of Environmental Conservation: [Press Release \(Sept 2018\)](#)

How to Spot Egg a Spotted Lanternfly Egg Mass [Web Page](#)

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture [Fact Sheet](#)

USDA Fact Sheet: [Spotted Lanternfly \(Lycorma delicatula\)](#)

[NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Confirms Finding of Spotted Lanternfly Invasive Insect](#)

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: [Spotted Lanternfly](#)

Last updated February 23, 2021

Membership

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. Individual @\$15, Household @\$20, Business with business card listing @\$30.

While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to becoming a member: Our members-only plants-of-the-month at discounted prices, 25% discount on May plant sale purchases, Participation in the members-only plant sale in August, and Participation in the April members-only seedling exchange to name four – any one of which can easily recoup the cost of your dues. Hopefully we will have many more of these activities in 2021 than we did in 2020. Print and complete the 2021 Membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf> Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu.

Upcoming 2021 ACNARGS Programs

NOTE: Due to Covid our meetings will take on a different format. We do plan to hold live meetings via Zoom and are currently in the process of booking speakers, hopefully on our “usual” meeting dates. For those of you unfamiliar with Zoom, we will be sending out information about how to connect and can offer assistance to anyone who requests it. We hope to have our meeting calendar finalized - as much as anyone can plan ahead these days - for publication in our next newsletter.

May 14 and 21: 11 – 7p.m. ACNARGS booth at CCE plant sale, Ithaca Farmers Market

May 22: Plant Sale covid style for ACNARGS members only, Myers Park; set-up begins at 9, sale following thereafter at approximately 11a.m.

June 26: Day tour of gardens in the Ithaca area

August 5-8: NARGS Annual General Meeting in Durango, CO. Info and registration at NARGS.org

August TBD: Annual member only plant sale

What's in store for our programs this summer and fall? After our usual summer program meeting hiatus, hopefully we will be able to meet in person. This newsletter is your best source for learning about our 2021 programming.

Calendar of Select Events & Programs

Practical Earthkeeper, Home Gardening Program, [Cornell Cooperative Extension](#)

[Finger Lakes Native Plant Society](#) monthly meetings

[Cornell Botanic Gardens](#) events

[Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club](#)

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to David Mitchell at david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com

About ACNARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 5 program-speaker meetings, the *Green Dragon* newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, two plant sales a year, and frequent plant giveaways. Our meetings are informal, friendly gatherings that provide a wealth of information and offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners. The public is always welcome.

Chapter membership starts at \$15 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, annual membership directory, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales. Download a membership form at www.acnargs.org/join.pdf.

About NARGS National

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication focused on rock gardening, and an online website featuring an archive of past publications, a chat forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS National also conducts winter study weekends and holds its Annual Meeting in interesting places where attendees have the opportunity to visit gardens and take field trips, often to alpine areas, as well as hear talks by outstanding plants people from around the world. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

2020 ACNARGS Board Members and Contacts

If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

Chair: **John Gilrein**, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program: **Terry Humphries**, terryhumphries@gmail.com

Program Committee Members: **Could this be you?**

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer: **BZ Marranca**, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: **Carol Eichler**, carolithaca@gmail.com

Plant Sales Committee Members: **Michael Loos**, **BZ Marranca**, **David Mitchell**

Plant of the Month: **Marlene Kobre**, mkobre@ithaca.edu

Membership: Seeking someone to do this. **Could this be you?**

New Member Hospitality: **Graham Egerton**

Newsletter Editor: **David Mitchell**, dwm23@cornell.edu. **Looking for a new editor!**

Calendar: **Pat Curran**, pc21@cornell.edu

Webmaster, Program Tech: **Craig Cramer**, cdcramer@gmail.com

Green Dragon Tales

Published eight times a year: Jan./Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov./Dec. Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to David Mitchell, david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website www.acnargs.org



Rosy Glos's favorite rock garden plants in bloom now. Photos by Rosy Glos.

Row 1: *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Aquilegia grahamii*, *Tulipa tarda*

Row 2: *Matthiola montana*, *Fritillaria michaelovskii*, *Silene acaulis*

Row 3: *Pulmonaria* 'Blue Ensign', *Primula* 'Beatrice Wooster', and *Draba aizoides*